Secta. II-37—40,000—27-10-38.

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Development

~~R & P. H.~~ (1947) Department.

No. SERIES.

G.O. No. 4160

Dated 26th August 1947

[Despatch Abstract.]

LABOUR - Wage Board for determining wage structure and for preparing standardised occupational nomenclature in Textile Mills - Appointed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

(Abstract)

LABOUR - Wage Board for determining wage structure and for preparing standardised occupational nomenclature in Textile Mills - Appointed.

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Development Department

G.O.Ms.No.4160, Dated 25th August 1947,

O R D E R:

The Industrial Tribunal (Textiles) in its award on the conditions of Labour in the Textile Industry, has recommended that a Wage Board and a Standardisation Committee should be set up with one or three members and four assessors - two to be representatives of employers and two of labourers - for determining the wage structure for different categories of workers in Textile Mills starting with a basic wage of Rs.26/- per mensem, for an unskilled worker and for preparing a standardised occupational nomenclature for all Textile Mills in this province. The Government accept the recommendation and hereby appoint a Wage Board with Sri A. Uthandaraman, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, as the sole member of the Board. The Board is also authorised to co-opt four assessors ~~— visitors —~~ representing employers and two labourers for each area as and when a study is made by the Board in that area - i.e. for Madura, Coimbatore and for Madras inclusive of other places.

2. The Investigators appointed to work under the Court of Enquiry for Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops,. will render all necessary help to the Board.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor).

Sd/ ** **

To the Commissioner of Labour

p.t.o.

To ~~khm~~ Sri A. Uthandaraman, Assistant Commissioner of Labour,
Madras
Copy to the Court of Enquiry, Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops
who is requested to depute the investigators
Copy to the Accountant-General.

(True copy)

R. Thiagarajan 9.2.54

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Department of Labour

No.LC-2(6), Dated New Delhi, the 26th July 1947.

From

V. Narayanan Esq.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department, Madras.

Sub: Standardization of wages in the Cotton Textile Industry.

Sir,

Provincial Governments are probably aware that as the result of an award by the Industrial Court of Bombay (published in the Bombay Government Gazette.Extraordinary dated the 2nd June 1947), wages in the Cotton Textile Industry in Bombay city and inland have been recently standardized. The standardization scheme in Bombay has been worked out on the basis of a minimum occupational wage of Rs.30/- per month, the minimum wage being related to the 1939 cost of living index. In addition to basic wage, workers are entitled to a dearness allowance.

The other main Centre of the Cotton Textile Industry, viz. Ahmedabad, has been working for some years on a standardised scale of wages. Similarly a scheme of standardization is also in operation in another important centre of the Industry, viz. Indore.

2. The introduction of a scheme of standardization in Bombay has naturally given rise to similar claims in other industrial centres. As nearly half the number of workers in the Industry are working on standardized systems, it would be difficult to resist the claim of workers in other centres for the introduction of similar measure of standardization, it is proposed that this subject should be taken up for consideration at the first meeting of the Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles, about the formation of which Provincial and State Governments have already been advised. Before any scheme of standardization can be given effect to, a considerable amount of preliminary work has to be done. I am directed to request that the Provincial Governments may consider the matter and set in motion the machinery to work out a scale of basic wages applicable to the various centres. There is a considerable body of opinion in favour of the adoption of Rs.30/- as a basic wage throughout the country. In support of this opinion it is urged that/a result of war-time conditions differences in the relative expensiveness of living between different localities and areas in the country have been more or less evenned out and a given wage to-day purchases more or less the same goods in the different parts of the country. This is borne out by the relatively smaller rise in the cost of living in places formerly regarded as more expensive than in places where living conditions were relatively cheaper. Besides, a large measure of uniformity in cloth prices has been attained as a result of the Textile Control. In view of these considerations, it has been urged that wages should also be standardized throughout the country. As against this, it is possible that there may still persist differences in relative expensiveness of living in different localities, and this may have to be taken into account in fixing basic wages and the scale of dearness allowances.

3. The Industrial Committee on Cotton Textile Industry is likely to meet in November next. I am to request that the necessary preliminary enquiries and discussions be set in motion in consultation with representatives of workers, so that if, at the Conference, there is, as is expected to be, a general concensus of opinion in favour of standardization of wages, it can be given effect to immediately. Indeed if agreement could be secured between employers and workers, there is no reason why the implementation of an agreed scheme of standardization of wages should and employers and if possible schedules of rates worked out for be.... various centres so

be deferred even till the meeting of the Industrial Committee on Cotton Textile Industry. I am also to request that the Government of India may be kept informed of the progress of work in this matter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,

Sd/ S.P. Saksena
for Joint Secretary to Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department

Letter No.61032-PIII/47-3

From

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Labour,
NEW DELHI (with enclosure)

Dated Fort St. George the 11th September 1947.

Sir,

Labour Standardization of wages in the Textile industry.

Your letter No.L.C.-2(6)-3406, dated 26-7-1947.

I am directed to state that this Government have appointed an Industrial Tribunal in April 1947 under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to enquire and adjudicate on various disputes between the workers and managements of all the Textile Mills in this Province. The award of the Industrial Tribunal (Textiles) (copies of which have already been sent to you) has been accepted by this Government. Among other things, the Tribunal recommended that a Wage Board and a Standardization Committee should be set up with one or three members and four assessors representing employers and labourers in equal proportion for determining the wage structure for different categories of workers in Textile Mills starting with a basic wage of Rs.26/- per mensem for an unskilled worker and for preparing a standardised occupational nomenclature for all the Textile Mills. This Government have accordingly appointed a Wage Board in their G.O.No.4160 Development dated the 25th August 1947 (copy enclosed) which will serve the purposes indicated in the letter cited above.

I am to state that a further report will be sent as soon as the findings of the Board are received and considered by this Government.

Your Obedient Servant,
Sd/ ** **
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras (with a copy of Government of India's letter).